WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of validation support comprising:

inputting functional configuration information that represents a function of an apparatus to be validated;

inputting a condition for an input/output sequence that is assigned to the apparatus;

generating a validation item function that satisfies all conditions for the input/output sequence, based on the functional configuration information; and

extracting a combination of configuration elements that constitute the functional configuration information as a validation item, based on the validation item function.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein

the validation item function is expressed by a binary decision diagram, and

the validation item is extracted based on the validation item function that is expressed by the binary decision diagram.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the condition for the input/output sequence includes a resource constraint condition for a functional device in the configuration elements that constitute the functional configuration information.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the condition for the input/output sequence includes a condition that makes a limitation on a configuration element to be validated among the configuration elements that constitute the functional configuration information.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein

priority information is added to a functional device in the configuration elements that constitutes the functional configuration information, and

the method further comprises calculating a validation priority based on the priority information of the functional device for each validation item.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

inputting number of validation items to be extracted, wherein

the validation item is extracted based on the number of validation items input.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

converting validation item description information that describes an operation of the functional device that constitutes the functional configuration information into information that does not describe the operation of the functional device, wherein

the information converted is input as the functional configuration information.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

inputting a validation environment that defines a flow of data that is input to and output from the apparatus to be validated; and

creating an input/output sequence to be applied to the apparatus to be validated, based on the validation environment and the validation item.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein

the functional configuration information is input from a predetermined

information terminal via a network,

the condition for the input/output sequence is input from the information terminal via the network, and

the validation item is output to the information terminal via the network.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein

the functional configuration information is input from a predetermined information terminal via a network,

the condition for the input/output sequence is input from the information terminal via the network,

the validation environment is input from the information terminal via the network,

the validation item is output to the information terminal via the network, and

the input/output sequence is output to the information terminal via the network.

11. A computer program that makes a computer execute:

inputting functional configuration information that represents a function of an apparatus to be validated;

inputting a condition for an input/output sequence that is assigned to the apparatus;

generating a validation item function that satisfies all conditions for the input/output sequence, based on the functional configuration information; and

extracting a combination of configuration elements that constitute the functional configuration information as a validation item, based on the validation item function.

12. An apparatus for validation support comprising:

an information input unit that inputs functional configuration information that represents a function of an apparatus to be validated;

a condition input unit that inputs a condition for an input/output sequence that is given to the apparatus;

a generation unit that generates a validation item function that satisfies all conditions for the input/output sequence, based on the functional configuration information; and

an extraction unit that extracts a combination of configuration elements that constitute the functional configuration information as a validation item, based on the validation item function.